

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Inkjet printer for printing on goods incorporating:

a computer (20) controlling the operational process,

at least one exchangeable reservoir bottle (24) filled with a previously known quantity of a fluid(30), with a solvent or pigment for example, an installed intermediate container (32) that is recharged with fluid (30) from the reservoir bottle (24) and

an installed arrangement designed to detect the quantity of fluid (30) drawn from the reservoir bottle (24),

characterized in that the reservoir bottle (24) is provided with a label (38) carrying coded information about the fluid (30) it contains, e.g., an expiration date, the kind of fluid (30), the quantity of fluid (30), its viscosity and so on, that the label (38) is fed into the computer when inserting a new reservoir bottle (24), that the computer (20) is provided with a test program that checks the label (38) fed and that only allows normal operation of the inkjet printer when at least one selected test criterion, e.g., the expiration date, is alright and that the output signal of the arrangement designed to detect the quantity of fluid (30) drawn from the reservoir bottle (24) is present on the computer and that a signal „reservoir bottle empty" is delivered when the previously known quantity of fluid (30) has been drawn from the reservoir bottle (24).

1 2. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that at the same time
2 as the computer (20) emits the signal „reservoir bottle empty“, it
3 suspends the tapping of fluid (30) from the reservoir bottle (24) and only
4 allows the tapping of fluid (30) from the new reservoir bottle (24) after a
5 new coded label (38) has been fed.

1 3. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that the volume of the
2 reservoir bottle (24) is greater than the volume of the intermediate
3 container, in particular more than six times and preferably more than 10
4 times the volume of said intermediate container (32).

5 4. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that the signal
6 "reservoir bottle (24) empty" is delivered when the reservoir bottle is
7 empty, the intermediate container (32) however being at least partially still
8 full.

1 5. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that the computer (20)
2 has a time unit that produces an internal date and that this internal date is
3 compared with the date indicated on the label (38).

1 6. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that the computer (20)
2 is provided with a memory in which the information from the label (38),

like the kind of fluid (30), the quantity of fluid (30), its viscosity, are stored and that these data are preferably deleted when a new reservoir bottle (24) is inserted.

7. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that, on an inkjet printer with two or more reservoir bottles (24) with various fluids (30), the reservoir bottles (24) are mechanically formed in different ways and that the insertion of a bottle at a place assigned to another bottle with another fluid (30) is mechanically hindered.

8. Inkjet printer according to claim 1, characterized in that the label (38) is machine readable and is a bar code for example.

9. Inkjet printer according to claim 8, characterized by a holding device (22) for a reservoir bottle (24) characterized in that a scanning device (42) for the label (38) is arranged in said holding device (22) and that, when an empty reservoir bottle (24) is replaced by a new, full reservoir bottle (24), at least one scanning of the label (38) is performed automatically as soon as the new reservoir bottle (24) has taken place in the holding device (22).

10. Inkjet printer according to claim 9, characterized in that it has at least two holding devices (22) for reservoir bottles (24) with various fluids (30) and

1 that the reservoir bottles (24) for the various holding devices (22) are built
2 according to the same design principle but differ from each other by their
3 label (38).

1 11. Use of a reservoir bottle (24) in an inkjet printer according to claim 1,
2 wherein the reservoir bottle (24) is a) filled with a fluid (30) that is
3 required for the operation of the inkjet printer and b) provided with a label
4 (38) that contains data needed by the computer (20) for the operation of
5 the inkjet printer.